

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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"THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY," is the motto of The Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall. On all matters relating especially to the great interests it represents, it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend, and impartially the wrong condemn. Serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. -From Col. Polk's Salutory, Feb. 10, 1896

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We would appreciate reports from all who have, successfully or unsuccessfully, attempted to secure new subscriptions for us.

Owing to the very inclement weather, which prevailed in many sections of the State on last Thursday, we fear that the County Alliance meetings were not as successful as they should have been. In counties where no meeting was held the President should at once call a special meeting. In counties where meetings were held we hope that Secretaries will at once forward us reports.

Our poultry show held in Charlotte last week was a great success. The exhibits were three times as large as last year. The Barred Plymouth Rock class reached 200, this being the largest lot of birds of this kind ever brought together in North Carolina. There were several white Wyandottes valued at \$50 each. There were also very large classes of Cornish Indian Games, Buff Cochins, Brown Leghorns, Light Brahmas, Black Langshans and quite a number of fine geese, ducks, turkeys and pigeons.

In this State two important agricultural events are scheduled for this week. The most important is the State Tobacco Growers' Convention to be held here to-morrow, Wednesday. A large number of delegates will undoubtedly attend, and it is hoped that some plans for the relief of our tobacco growing population will be agreed upon. The second is the annual meeting of the State Horticultural Society to be held at Southern Pines, January 19th, beginning at 10 a. m. A most interesting program has been arranged and a number of valuable addresses will be made.

If the States of Colorado and Nevada wish to spend a few million dollars developing the arid regions in those States, we are sure we shall not object. But the people of other States are by no means anxious to pay more taxes in order to irrigate the Western deserts and make of them competing sections to still further reduce the already ruinously low prices of our agricultural products. The people have not protested against the irrigation idea as strongly as they should, but the Congressmen who mistake their inactivity for acquiescence will soon realize their error.

The farmer who launches out with some new crop, with which he has had no previous experience, expecting to make immense profits the first year, in ninety nine cases out of each hundred, doomed to disappointment. There must be preparation for the work and in most cases several lessons in the dear school of experience before success can be attained. North Carolina imports from other States many agricultural products which should be raised within her own borders: of celery, for instance, 90 per cent. of our supply is said to be raised outside of the State; yet unless you begin the cultivation of any new crop with the determination to "keep at it," even at a loss for the first few years, you will find it more profitable to stick to tobacco or cotton.

It is to be hoped that the effort to re-open the State Normal and Industrial College on the 30th inst., will meet with success. Feyer at the College has entirely disappeared and the best medical and scientific authorities have united in renovating, cleaning and disinfecting. We believe the institution is now safe and with the lesson taught by the recent epidemic we believe that no institution will devote more attention to the health of its pupils than will the State Normal in the future. A good re-opening would assist in lightening the burden of sorrow which has borne so heavily on Dr. McIver and his faculty and would be especially gratifying as an answer to the malicious and heartless utterances of some enemies of the institution.

THE APPALACHIAN PARK.

We are glad to learn that Senator Pritchard has presented the memorial of the Appalachian National Park Association, urging the establishment of "a National park at some point in the Southern Appalachian region." It is to be hoped that with the combined active support of several of our Representatives among the Democratic Congressmen, Senator Pritchard among the Republicans and Senator Butler among the Populists, the measure will go through with flying colors. The Asheville Citizen prints a map showing boundaries of the park as proposed by the Association. It embraces portions of the Tennessee border counties, Graham, county and large portions of the counties of Sevier, Haywood, Madison and Yancey.

FERTILIZING--HOME-MIXING.

As a rule the farmer who has no well defined idea of the nature of the three principal ingredients of commercial fertilizers and the effect of each upon plant growth, should not attempt home mixing. His ignorance will prove costly enough if he sticks to factory-mixed brands, but is likely to be more expensive if home mixing is attempted. A well written volume from an authority on fertilizing and a few hours devoted to its study, however, will prepare anyone to mix his own fertilizers. One dollar invested in the purchase of "Fertilizers," a practical book by one of America's highest authorities, Edward B. Voorhees, or some other work, equally good if such can be found, will richly repay the average farmer, and this whether he decides upon home mixing or not. A knowledge of the nature of the different fertilizing constituents will be worth many dollars to you, even in the purchase of factory-mixed brands.

RESTRICT FOREIGN IMMIGRATION.

The Progressive Farmer believes Congress should restrict foreign immigration. The party that insists upon protecting our manufacturing industries should also protect our working men from competition with degraded Hungarians and Poles. To shut them out of free America may appear cruel, but self preservation is the first law of nature. In his annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury, Commissioner General Powderly, of the Emigration Bureau, gives the total arrivals of the year ended June 30, 1899, as 311,715, an increase over the preceding year of 82,416, or 46 per cent. The increase over the figures for previous year is represented largely by immigration from Europe, especially from Italy, Austria Hungary, Russia and Finland, which show gains respectively of 18,866; 22,694 and 31,154. Of the total arrivals, Europe supplies 297,349; Asia, 8,972; Africa, 31 and all other countries 5,343. The distribution as to sex was 195,277 males, and 116,438 females. As to age, 43,983 were under 14; 248,187 from 14 to 45; and 19,545 of 45 years or older. As to literacy, 61,446 could neither read nor write, and 1,022 could read, but were unable to write. If American labor is to keep its present moral and intellectual standards, it must not be forced into competition with degraded European labor.

Some of the South Carolina legislators have backbone. We notice in the press dispatches that in the House of Representatives Friday Mr. Epps introduced a bill to prohibit the sale of cigarettes and Mr. Stevenson a bill to prevent children under 12 years of age from working in manufacturing establishments.

CORRESPONDENCE WHICH EXPLAINS ITSELF.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 29, 1899.
Mr. Jno H. Humble, Editor Tribune, Opelousas, La.:

DEAR SIR:—Will you please give us a short, non partisan article on the Constitutional amendment regulating suffrage recently adopted in your State? Has it taken the negro out of politics? What is its general effect?

Thanking you in advance for the courtesy asked,

Very truly,

CLARENCE H. POW,
Editor The Progressive Farmer.

OPLOUSAS, La., Jan. 7, 1900.
Mr. C. H. Pow, Editor The Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.:

DEAR SIR:—In response to yours of 29th, can as yet say little. We have had no State election since the present Constitution was adopted—1901 by the people, as your letter would indicate you suppose, but by the Constitutional Convention without submission to us. The negro still figures in all nominating conventions, as we have no laws governing primaries yet. This feature is very objectionable to all the people, without regard to party.

Till the election next April very little can be said of "effects," there being none yet.

Yours truly,
JNO. H. HUMBLE

GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION.

For the last fifteen years there has been before Congress a question of great import to the American people—that of developing the desert regions of the West at the expense of the American people. It came first, we believe, as a recommendation from Maj. Powell, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and was regarded with a jealous eye by leading agriculturists who foresaw jobbery, and further discouraging competition in the near future from the hasty marketing of vast areas of the public domain, which should be held back a hundred years or more before being given up to settlement. All the more should this projected move be put off until the land is really needed because it will require an expenditure of millions, perhaps billions, of public treasure to bring the land into usefulness. Better let the land lie arid and settle other problems in this generation.

The land system of the United States should now be modified, land subsidies withdrawn and the government set resolutely to hold the remnants of its great landed estates for future generations to spread out upon when the present farming lands shall have been more fully occupied. Then, and not till then, will be the time to make great public irrigating works to reclaim the arid alkali deserts. The fact that it is admitted and believed to be feasible, and also that great profit and credit for undertaking a great work with years of profitable employment is sufficient inducement for many able men to espouse the cause and raise their voices to secure Congressional action to irrigate the great alkali areas and turn them over to settlement to whomsoever will come and take up land. There are good sound reasons why it is best for the nation to move slower in this matter than the advocates, who have now grown numerous and strong, would have Congress do.

The great efforts to develop the prairies of the West have built a vast empire which is creditable and justifies the action of Congress in its very liberal policy. But there must necessarily be an end to this course. The land will all be gone soon enough if the policy is changed so as to carry out the policy of the greatest good to the greatest number of citizens. The vast public domain of wild land capable of cultivation without the aid of irrigation has now been largely exploited. The stored wealth of fertility of centuries has been tapped and thrown into marketable form by means of new easier channels of transportation than the world ever knew before. These combined forces have wrought a great revolution in many things, but with the American agriculturist it has been a severe, almost overpowering competition. In most cases, we believe, the pioneers who have grown the immense crops have been in the hands of capitalists, warehouse men and transportation companies who have managed to absorb the lion's share of the values taken out of the stored fertility. I have not been produced, only brought into use and exhausted.

The time is soon coming when more of these great areas already robbed of the richest, first fruits of their wealth must be formed with a view to retaining fertility in older sections. This change toward intense culture can and should occupy the attention of the boomers for the next generation. They will find ample outlet for their energies. This would leave the arid region free from depredation. It has been cut off from cultivation by obedience to natural laws. It should stay as it is until really needed and then is time for the government to erect great irrigation works to open up this area, vast in itself, but small compared with the richer lands already opened to settlement and invite the descendants of the present generation to become tenants thereon, at fixed rents.

There is even now a powerful lobby of Governors of States and Territories, with lesser men and speculators eagerly pressing for authority to begin irrigation on an immense scale—indeed the work has begun. Surveys have been made and the funds are wanted to push this work of opening what should remain closed for a hundred years.

If the people would have this do, it is time to rouse up and demand of representatives in Congress that this move be deferred. Do not stop with this. Urge that the immigration and homestead laws be modified and put on a more conservative basis. Then, urge your Representative and Senators to act promptly on these measures and you, their constituents, support them in their action. The measures which will bring great areas into competition with all present farm land and at great expense to the government will be executed by constant pushing unless met by as determined opposition from a greater number.

Now is the time to begin to act by writing your representatives to look out for and defeat the irrigation measure and to try to effect the other conservative measures named above. While you delay the momentum of the irrigation movement increases.

F. E. E.

THE FILIPINO INSURRECTION.

The Progressive Farmer has on one or two occasions been deceived into believing that the end of the Philippine insurrection was only a matter of a few weeks. Experience, however, has taught us some things and we are not as credulous as we once were.

Gen. Otis, to be sure, informs us, with the regularity of clock work, that the trouble will be settled within a few days, but these optimistic statements, like the boy's cry of "wolf, wolf," in the old fable, have from too frequent use almost lost their efficacy. Skirmishes occur almost daily with American losses ranging from one to ten and Filipino casualties always reported greater, but the war continues. And without some change in our policy it may continue indefinitely. The Filipinos have adopted the tactics with which the Indians worried early American settlers for several hundred years, and we are inclined to believe that war in some parts of the Philippines will continue until we withdraw our forces or adopt the same desperate remedy that settled Indian warfare in this country—extermination. It is not a humane remedy: it is not one that liberty loving Americans should adopt. But much thought and study has convinced us that a considerable portion of the Filipinos will fight until they secure liberty or death. They have been waging war with Spain for generations and the fact that this country is a republic while Spain is a kingdom seems to make little difference with them.

We may be in error—we hope we are—but after watching the games since its beginning and studying the question for some time, we have arrived at these conclusions.

THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION.

This is the week this great Association holds its third annual convention. This year the meeting will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, beginning on the 16th and continuing four days.

This Association has started out with definite purposes and is grasping its problems in a business-like way. There has been a volume of minutes, committee work and addresses published for each of the two first meetings. There have also been seventeen bulletins published carrying out special information to the membership, which is as broad as the interests connected with the cattle industry from the cow boy on the plains to the retail butcher, tanner and cobbler or the upholsterer using hair and glue.

There are no important problems facing stockmen that this body is not ready to grapple with, and its third meeting promises to surpass in interest either of its predecessors. North Carolina should form a Live Stock Association for building up the stock industry in our own State and co-operating with the National body in its broader plans and purposes.

COMPOSTS.

EDITORS PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—I have lots of old hay, leaves and weeds dirt, with a lot of barnyard manure, and I wish to make a large compost heap. Now I desire to know how to manage in order to get best results, whether to use acid, lime or anything to "eat up" the trash. Some say that lime alone eats up the trash, but burns up the manure, so it is of no value. So I ask your advice.

Respectfully,

Iredell Co., N. C.
(Answered by Corresponding Editor Irby, M. S.)

My advice with reference to old hay, leaves, etc., would be to haul these ingredients out on the land. The barnyard manure, fertilizer, or anything of that kind that you wish to add, can be drilled in the row in the usual way, but I would put this humus or organic matter on broadcast. To add leaves, woods earth and manure together in a compost heap adds nothing to its fertility; on the other hand, some may be lost. Then again it is very expensive to handle so much bulky stuff.

I should certainly not put any lime with the manure or with anything else; lime should be applied to the soil alone, as it has a tendency to liberate fertilizing elements in the manure or the compost heap. When put in the soil it does practically no damage, as all the liberated material is caught up by the soil again before it can escape. The old compost heap idea is a good one to encourage people to add humus to the soil, but there was nothing gained by hauling the leaves and dirt from the woods and adding it to the manure and mixing with fertilizer and then hauling to the soil. In fact, there was often loss. This is the reason why I advise against composts. Haul your bulky materials out and broadcast, and drill your concentrated fertilizers and I believe you will follow the most economical method.

B. I.

State News.

WHAT TAR HEELS ARE DOING.

From the State Press—Drops of Turpentine and Grains of Rice from the East—Clusters of grapes and Tobacco Stems from the North—Stalks of Corn and Grains of Wheat from the West—Peanuts and Cotton Seed from the South

Mr. S. H. Gower, of Johnston county, killed a hog a few days ago which weighed 525 pounds.

Col. W. S. Pearson, editor of the Morganton Herald, is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for State Auditor.

Ashley Horne, of Seima, who has been often referred to as an aspirant for the Democratic nomination for State Treasurer, says he is not an aspirant.

Miss Davis, of Granville county, a student at the Normal and Industrial college at Greensboro, recently died, the thirteenth victim of the typhoid epidemic.

The Alexander county board of education was in session Monday and apportioned the public money. The amount was found to be 98 cents per scholar.

A special term of Guilford Superior Court for the trial of civil cases has been called, to begin Monday, February 5. His Honor Judge W. A. Hoke presiding.

A negro girl attempted to poison the family of Mr. R. C. Batchelor, at Raleigh, N. C., by putting a box of matches into a pot of coffee. She had been discharged as a servant.

The eighteen-year-old son of James Burns was found dead near Woodard's bridge, nine miles north of Pittsboro last week. It is supposed he was thrown by a mule and killed.

Jo Harris a white man has been sent to jail in Wake county for falsely swearing to a girl's age in order to procure a marriage license for a friend. The girl was 14 and Harris made oath that she was 18.

It has been announced that assistant district attorney Spencer Blackburn will contest with Congressman Linney, before the next Republican convention, for the nomination to represent that district in the next congress.

Ex-Treasurer Pope, of Harnett, who had failed to pay the State taxes for 1898 and against whom the State Treasurer had obtained judgment, last week paid up and got "a clean bill of health." He paid \$2,479.80, of which \$30.70 was for costs.

The Raleigh Weekly says that President McIver, of the State Normal and Industrial College, expended \$600 of his private funds in assisting sick students and others who had no funds to go to their homes after the recent outbreak of the epidemic at the State Normal.

Capt. R. B. Glenn is greatly annoyed over the announcement in the papers that he is a candidate for the United States Senate. A representative of the Atlanta Journal did talk with him while in Washington, but Capt. Glenn did not know his statement would be published.

Preparations are being made at Gastonia, N. C., for the erection of a cotton mill to cost \$1,000,000. A mill engineer from Boston began a survey of the site last week preparatory to drawing plans for the buildings. Work will begin on the plant as soon as the weather will permit.

The jury in the case of Marshall, the young Wilmington lawyer charged with counterfeiting, which has been the sensation in Raleigh Federal Court circles for some days, failed to agree. Nine jurors were for acquittal, three for conviction. The case will be tried again in August next.

The Wadesboro Messenger says that Sandy Caple, a 12 year-old orphan colored boy, was found dead at his home near Lileville, Anson county, a few days ago. The boy had apparently frozen to death, but as the people with whom he lived did not treat him well there are suspicions of foul play.

D. U. Lery, of Chicago, was in Raleigh last week on matters connected with the giving of title to the government for 30 acres of land on Bald Head or Smith's Island, at the mouth of the Cape Fear river. He owns the island and will make a game preserve and resort of it, stocking it with deer, etc. There are 14,000 acres.

The State's bonded debt is now \$6,501,770, of which \$2,720,000 is in 6 per cent.; the remainder in 4 per cent. The annual interest charge is \$305,178. The State owns stock in the N. C., and the A. & N. C. Railroads, aggregating \$4,266,800, and holds its own bonds to the amount of \$136,750. These holdings have a market value of \$5,206,000. The income from these is \$235,815, which is from railroad dividends mainly.

Mage Smith was found dead in the woods near the Wadesboro depot Tuesday morning. There were wounds on his head, which looked as if they were made with a pick. The dead man's pockets were rifled and his watch was removed. The coroner's jury found that he had come to his death at the hands of unknown persons.

The News and Observer Washington correspondent claims to have information that Governor Russell, Judge Spencer B. Adams and others are fixing up the most mixed State ticket that was ever heard of before. A distinguished anti-amendment Democrat to head this ticket and Populists and Republicans are to fill in the minor places.

On Friday, 12th, the directors of the State Normal and Industrial College decided to open the institution January 30. The directors are satisfied with the present sanitary condition of the college, and the vote to open January 30 was unanimous. The work of fumigation has been conducted in the most scientific manner possible.

The Landmark says that the officers of the Presbyterian church of Statesville have decided to prohibit the use of the church for public free-to-all marriages. Hereafter no marriages can take place in the church except by permission of the session, and then admission must be by card. This action is the result of abuse of the church by thoughtless witnesses of former marriages.

Col. J. Bryan Grimes, of Pitt county, is being boomed as the Democratic candidate for Secretary of State. The Greenville Weekly says: The friends of Mr. J. Bryan Grimes are pleased with the favorable mention of his name in connection with the nomination for Secretary of State. Mr. Grimes will be a candidate for the nomination and if merit, honor and ability are the qualifications to be considered, then he is the peer of any candidate.

Chatham Citizen: One night recently a young couple with matrimonial inclinations went to the home of a Cape Fear Justice of the Peace after he had retired and asked to be married. The justice was tired and sleepy and did not want to have the trouble of this late marriage, but as they insisted he had them conducted to his bedroom and he married them without getting out of bed.

The Monroe Enquirer reports that during 1899 the amount of liquor sold by the dispensary aggregated \$17,807.10, with a total profit of \$4,410.04. It adds: "By the report of the dispensary board it will be seen that Monroe's liquor bill during the past year was near eighteen thousand dollars, to say nothing of the amount sold illegally. It is a sad fact, but a fact, nevertheless, that more money is spent in the county for liquor than is spent for churches."

The Durham county school fund has been apportioned. There are 8,475 school children in the county and the amount apportioned was \$24,916.05, or a per capita of \$2.94. Of this per capita \$2.80 comes from the county fund and 14 cents from the special State appropriation. In speaking of the appropriation Superintendent C. W. Massey said: "This is the largest per capita ever apportioned in this county, next to it being last year, when the per capita was \$2.50."

During 1899 there was only one lynching in North Carolina. That occurred in Carteret county. The victim was the murderer of a fisherman near Baufort, whose neighbors took the murderer from custody, placed him in a boat, carried him many miles to the scene of the crime, and there killed him, while the sheriff and posse was on the way to retake him—Ex. The Progressive Farmer would be glad to believe that we had but one lynching. But was there not one in Chatham county?

The Grand Lodge of Masons of North Carolina held its one hundred and thirteenth annual session in Raleigh last week. There are four new lodges, one each at Red Springs, Cookville, Carthage and Raleigh. The total number of lodges is 311. The membership is 11,400, an increase of 500, which is more than usual. The old ones have been more prosperous and are in a healthier condition than ever before. The Masons have done and are doing a great work, promoting feelings of fellowship and brotherly love.

News and Observer: "The fish and oyster industry of O. slow county has grown to be a great source of our wealth," said Mr. H. D. Merrill, of Catharine Lake, who is attending the G. and Lodge. "One night last week, Mr. W. H. Jarman caught 5,000 trout in New River in one night. Their average weight was two pounds and the night's catch was worth \$1,000 to Mr. Jarman. The oyster men have complained that the storms damaged the oyster crop in Pamlico sound. There was little damage to the New River oysters, the best in the world."